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January 8, 2002

Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington DC, 20530

Dear Attorney Hesse,

I would like to take this opportunity under the federal Tunney Act review provisions to voice my opinion regarding the pending Microsoft antitrust case. It is my understanding that Judge Colleen Kollar Kotelly is presently considering the merits of a settlement agreement to end the case that has been reached between Microsoft and the government lawyers. It is also my understanding that this settlement is opposed by Microsoft's industry competitors. Let me state my support for the proposed agreement, and my hope that it is adopted.

My perspective is twofold in that I work in the finance department of a small software company, and I also serve on the Finance Committee of my hometown, a community whose economy is very much effected by the information technology sector. From both these vantage points, I am able to see the negative impact of the case, or more importantly the potential positive impact of its conclusion. The industry at present is tentative in many ways, high tech companies having suffered disproportionately the effects of the current recession. The promise of an even greater government presence in the market does not help, even if it is Microsoft who is being targeted.

The prospect of a settlement however could have a very positive impact on the psyche of the high-tech world: not only would Microsoft, and her competitors be free to get back to business, but the threat of more regulation would be abated, encouraging more entrepreneurship. I believe the outcome would be profoundly beneficial to the industry and to the economy as a whole.

It is for these reasons that I ask that the Justice Department recommit itself to settling the case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William Ingham", is written over a horizontal line.

William Ingham